

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5476

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 1386

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, IR

SUBJ: EXPANDED PEACE SCEPTER PROGRAM

RER: A. STATE 027875; B. TEHRAN 0523

SUMMARY: OPTIONS ARE PRESENTED FOR HANDLING CIVILIAN COMPONENT OF PEACE SCEPTER PROGRAM.

1. EMBASSY AND MAAG OFFICERS HAVE DISCUSSED WITH USAF AND AID VISITORS POSSIBILITIES FOR HANDLING CIVILIAN ASPECTS OF EXPANDED PEACE SCEPTER PRORGAM. WE HAVE REACHED CONSENSUS ALONG FOLLOWING LINES.

2. STATE REFTEL PROPOSAL THAT AT&T UNDERTAKE ADVISORY FUNCTION IS UNLIKELY TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO GOI WHICH WOULD PROBABLY SUSPECT THAT COMPANY'S FINDINGS WOULD BE BIASED BY COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS. (SEE TEHRAN 0523.) IF GOI WISHES TO GO ROUTE OF COMMERCIAL ADVISER, THERE IS GROWING NUNBER OF AMERICAN AND, WE ARE CONFIDENT, FOREIGN FIRMS READY TO TAKE ON THE BUSINESS. IF USG DECIDES IT CAN PLAY NO ROLE IN THIS PROJECT BEYOND MILITARY SECTOR, WE SHOULD SO ADVISE GOI SO THAT IT CAN MAKE ITS OWN ARRANGEMENTS WITH PRIVATE FIRMS. IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR US TO NOMINATE ONE.

3. IF USG IS WILLING TO BECOME INVOLVED IN PROJECT, THERE
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ARE, IN OUR OPINION, TWO OPTIONS:

A. USAF AGREE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENTIRE PROJECT COVERING BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN SEGMENTS. USAF SHOULD BE FULLY AWARE OF POSSIBLY NEW EXPERIENCES IT WILL CONFRONT IN DEALING WITH IRANIAN CIVILIAN AGENCIES ALTHOUGH AIR FORCE TEAM HAS WORKED WITH PTT AND OTHER AGENCIES. IF WASHINGTON AGENCIES DECIDE ON THIS OPTION, THERE MUST BE FIRM AND FINAL DECISION THAT USAF WILL DO THE ENTIRE JOB, WITH ASSISTANCE, AS DESIRABLE, OF PRIVATE CONSULTING FIRM (E.G. MITRE CORP.).

B. A CIVILIAN USG AGENCY, PREFERABLY FCC, ACT AS RESPONSIBLE COORDINATOR FOR RANGE OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL STUDIES OF CIVILIAN SECTOR AND PROVIDE INTERFACE WITH USAF TEAM WORKING IN MILITARY SECTOR. TECHNICAL STUDIES WOULD BE PERFORMED BY THE SAME COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTING FIRM USED BY USAF. TEAM SHOULD BE HEADED BY MAN OF STATURE IN COMMUNICATIONS FIELD WHO COULD SPEAK WITH AUTHORITY TO RANKING GOI OFFICIALS. IN THIS SCHEME WE SEE USG AGENCY GIVING TEAM THE APPEARANCE (AND REALITY) IN DEALING WITH GOI OF SERVING INTEREST OF NO COMMERCIAL ENTITY. PREFERABLY, TEAM COULD BE SUBCONTRACTED TO USAF WHICH MIGHT HAVE BROAD UMBRELLA CONTRACT WITH IIAF. ALTERNATIVELY, IT COULD HAVE INDEPENDENT, PARALLEL CONTRACT WITH IIAF OR OTHER RESPONSIBLE GOI AGENCY (PTT).

4. AS SHAH HAS RECENTLY INDICATED THAT IIAF WILL HAVE OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENTIRE PEACE SCEPTER PROJECT AND THAT PTT WILL BE SUBORDINATE TO IIAF IN CONDUCT OF PROJECT, WE PREFER OPTION A. AS LESS COMPLICATED AND BETTER ADAPTED TO IRANIAN CIRCUMSTANCE. MAJOR OBSTACLE AS WE SEE IT IS TO OBTAIN FULL AGREEMENT OF WASHINGTON AGENCIES ON THIS COURSE OF ACTION. MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IS SPEED IN MAKING THE DECISION.

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